



The **RADIOGRAM**

Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.

PCARS - 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

VOLUME 20 - NUMBER 11 - NOVEMBER 2025



Ohio State Parks On The Air



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



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The RADIOGRAM

Volume 20 - November 2025 - Number 11

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From The PCARS President

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS President



We had a great time at Jamboree on the Air. We had a very special aero mobile contact. Lots of fun for all. More on that elsewhere in the newsletter. I am in the process of finishing a couple of interesting projects that include a satellite rotor and some remote antenna controls. As with most projects there are things to learn and mistakes to correct. However, as Poirot would say "It keeps the little gray cells active". Hams are happiest when they are building or breaking something. Now is the time to plan you projects for 2026.

As we reach the end of 2025, we have a few important things to consider:

Center of Hope Donations - This year even more people need our help with food for the holidays. Every year the number gets bigger. PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO COH. This can be by check made out to the Center of Hope and given to our Treasurer Paul KE8EGF; using the PayPal button on our website; or by buying a lot of 50/50 tickets at the November meeting. We always have some great prizes for this 50/50. Over \$1100 worth of prizes were donated by DXE. There will also be some other great stuff added to the pile.



Dues for 2026 - It is that time of year. You have until November 30th to pay your dues for 2026. Only a few have paid so far. We will be sending reminder emails to those who have not paid and thank you emails to those that have. The easiest way to pay your dues is to use the PayPal option you can find at <https://www.portcars.org/wp/membership/>. You can also pay by check sent to the club site Portage County Amateur Radio Service, 705 Oakwood St., Box 12, Ravenna OH 44266. Remember, if you don't pay by November 30th you will need to pay the \$5 initiation fee with your regular dues.

Elections – At the November meeting we will be electing new officers. I will not be running for 2026. Just too many commitments going forward. We need candidates for Trustee, President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Please consider stepping up to help.

Christmas Dinner – More information on the cost of the dinner is in the making. The dinner will be held at the American Legion on December 8th. Watch for more information via QST. Mark the date on your calendar. We always have a great time.



PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



From The Treasurer

Paul, KE8EGF
PCARS Treasurer



November is a big month for PCARS members.

2026 renewals are due by the end of the month (30-Nov). \$25 for members under 65, \$20 for Senior members (65+), and \$15 for any family members in the same household. Dues can be paid in person at the November General meeting, on the PCARS website with a small PayPal fee: [Membership I PCARS K8BF](#) (scroll to bottom of page for renewals), or by mailing to the club: 705 Oakwood St., Box 12, Ravenna, OH 44266. Fill out the form on the Membership page, check upper right-hand renewal box and E-mail to the PCARS treasurer or secretary.

We also are collecting donations for the Center of Hope (COH) in November. Consider adding a small donation to your renewal dues. A small donation from every member would greatly help. Again, donations can be made in-person at the November general meeting, mailed to the PCARS club-site, or made via PayPal on the web: [Donate](#). All money collected goes directly to the Center of Hope in Ravenna.

The PCARS portion of the November 50/50 collection is also donated to the COH. In the past, the 50/50 winner has received and PCARS has donated over \$500. There are also numerous other great prizes. If you cannot make it to the General meeting, we anticipate selling virtual tickets on the PCARS website. You will have until NOON on the Monday of our general meeting to be in the running for the November prizes. Virtual 50/50 winners will have 30-days to pickup prizes at the club-site. Look for a QST with details and link to 50/50 ticket sales.



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

KD8WZS	William
K3LR	Tim
KE8ARB	Brandon
KC8JC	J.C.
W8RID	Robert
KF8AEM	William
N8ATV	Jerry
WA8CCU	Al

N8BI	Jack
WA8EFK	Dale
N8WLE	Nick
KD8BXY	Paul
W8LUT	Tom
N8BAY	Ralph
K3GP	George

N8SY	Scott
WP4PLR	Ashley
KE8QEP	David
KD8ERY	Susan
W8GPN	Timothy
KB8UUZ	Tom
	Denise

PCARS - 20 Years and Going Better Every Year

Happy 20th Anniversary PCARS



On November 14, 2005 the Founders officially established PCARS during a meeting at Mike's Place in Kent



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



From Around The World...



Identiconn™ Connector Identification Utility -- "What is this connector?" -- A free service from The Electronic Connector Book

https://connectorbook.com/identification.html?N=&n=lever_splices&f=t*BuE;OA

Tiny UPS Keeps WiFi Online

<https://hackaday.com/2025/10/24/tiny-ups-keeps-wifi-online/>

Understanding Capacitors

<https://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/understanding-capacitors>

Club Website Update

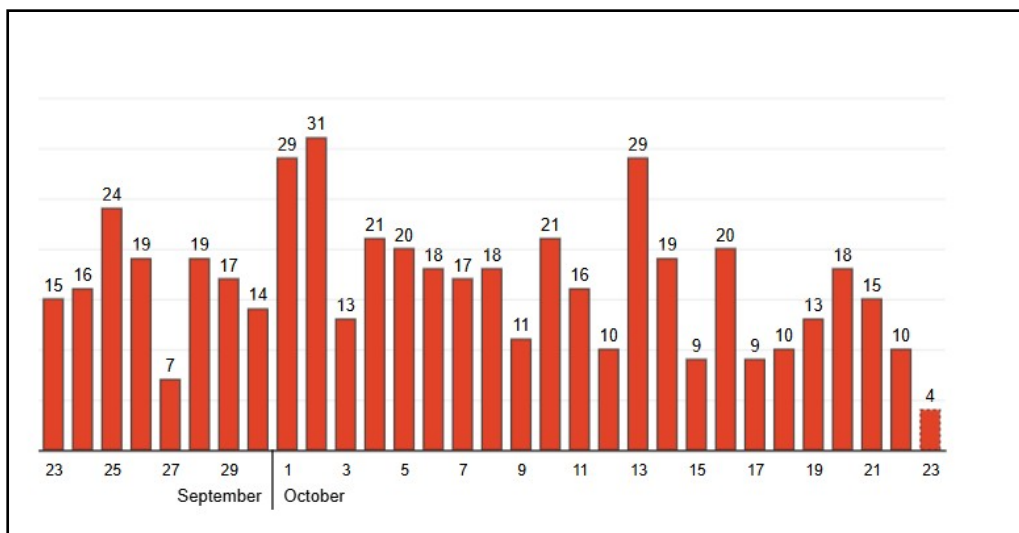
John, WG8X PCARS Webmaster



Have you checked our club websites recently? Yes, websites. It's real easy to forget that we also maintain OSPOTA.org. Traffic picks up for about 3 months of the year, and the rest of the time it is a bit of a ghost town.

Not so with portcars.org. We tend to get a bit of traffic there, which is a good thing. I like that pretty much every club event that is coming up, or has been done recently is chronicled on some part of the site. In addition, all the newsletters from day one to the present day are available on portcars.org.

In the months ahead, I'll be talking about some upcoming improvements for the websites. If you have any ideas for directions you'd like to see us head in, feel free to reach out. I can be reached at webmaster@portcars.org. 73 DE WG8X



THANK YOU DX Engineering

A very sincere **THANK YOU** to our friends at **DX Engineering** for helping again this year with the November Center of Hope raffle prizes (see below).

DX Engineering has been a long time supporter of PCARS and on behalf of all of the PCARS members, we appreciate their generosity and support throughout the year.

Come See Us at Our Showroom in Ohio

Order Pickup in Ohio & Nevada

DX Engineering, Tallmadge, Ohio
Showroom, Tech Support, Order Placement and Pickup

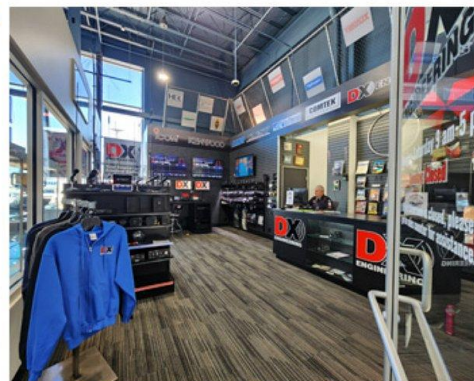
Monday - Saturday: 9am - 5pm

Extended hours for order placement and pickup even after the showroom is closed

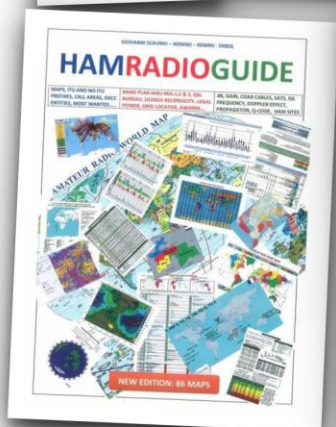
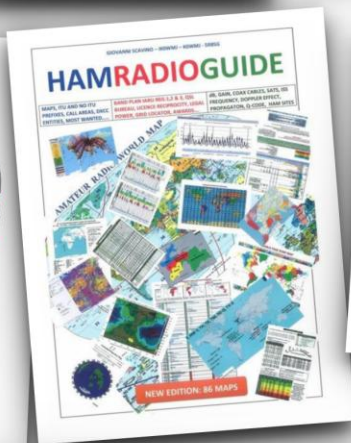
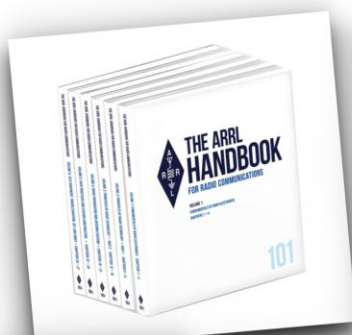
Monday - Saturday: 9am - 8pm

Sunday: 9am - 7pm

Inside Summit Racing Equipment
1200 Southeast Ave., Tallmadge, Ohio



Tallmadge, Ohio Showroom



On Saturday October 18th we setup at Camp Manatoc to demonstrate ham radio to Scouts. With the help of Agnes AD8IR, Ben AD8FQ and Mike KB8TUY we setup 2 stations for getting Scouts on the air. Turnout was modest but worth the effort. 20 and 15 meters were both open and full of contacts. Agnes and Ben ran on 20 SSB and I ran on 15 FT8. Great contacts with some very patient hams.

We have had some great and unusual contacts at JOTA events. A few years ago, we had a DSTAR contact with an Australian ham that spent 24 hours straight talking with Scouts across the globe. I bet he answered a thousand questions about his QTH. This year we had a very unusual contact. Sean K8JSM was aero mobile on a 757 traveling from Shannon Ireland to Newark. Sean is from Massillon and did most of his flight training in Wadsworth. He appreciated a contact close to home. He was operating on 20 meters and making a lot of JOTA contacts. Agnes was very happy to make the initial contact. After that he talked to a few scouts. He did an outstanding job. I understand that Zeb KD8WZS also had contacts from his JOTA mobile QTH. Hams like these really get the young interested in our great hobby.



If you are interested, HF is used for aviation over the oceans or uninhabited areas. Common frequencies are in the 8 and 10 MHz areas. The most common HF rig is the Collins Aerospace HFC-900D. It covers 2-30 MHz with either a 200- or 400-watt output. It is an all-mode radio capable of SSB, AM, CW. It is also equipped with a digital modem. Commercial aircraft are equipped with at least two of these radios. The antenna is a vertical located in the vertical stabilizer. The pilot can select any frequency in its range and any mode of transmission. If not being used for aircraft communication, it makes a great ham radio rig. Aero mobile contacts are usually made while the aircraft is using VHF for aviation communications. Obviously, the pilots can only make ham contacts when their pilot load is low. A couple of interesting pictures below. On the left is a picture showing all the antennas on a commercial airliner. You think you have a lot of antennas. The picture on the right is of the HFC-900 rig.





Well, Autumn is upon us. As I write this month's article, The wind is howling, the temperature is in the mid-40s, and I'm happy to be indoors. Once the outdoor stuff is finished for the season, I plan to get back on the road activating new to me parks.

Thanks to an unscheduled week off this month, I took the opportunity to install a refurbished Windows 11 computer in the shack. I do a ton of keyboarding, and the faster speed of this new computer really is awesome. Since this leaves me with an extra Windows 10 computer, perhaps I'll find time over the winter to explore the wonderful world of Linux in the Ham Shack.



October was the month for the normal visit to PA with friends for the PA QSO Party. It was a fun time as usual. The bands for the contest were great. Had I hung around for both days of the contest, I think I would've reached a new personal best. Unfortunately, a couple of us were starting to feel ill, so we cut out on Sunday morning. We had a fun time, but this was likely to be our final visit to this location in Jefferson County. For 2026, I expect we'll be in the Cook Forest area instead.

For this year, I took my Homebrew Off-Center-Fed (OCF) Dipole to try out for the contest. I have to admit that the OCF proved it's worth. I had good SWR on all contest bands from 75 – 6M. I managed to work 80M CW by using the outboard tuner. As usual, WI8T & KD8KMQ cooked steaks over the fire on Saturday night.

When not in PA, I've been spending time at Quail Hollow Park in Hartville doing some hiking and a bit of radio. I've been exploring the Buckeye Trail as it passes through the park, and enjoying the time outdoors. And that's about it for this month. See you in December! 73 DE WG8X

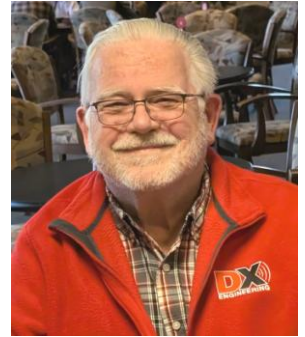


OSPOTA 2025 - Final Results

Ohio State Parks On The Air



Tom, KB8UUZ
OSPOTA Chairman



The 18th annual **Ohio State Parks On The Air** (OSPOTA) 2025 contest is in the history books. The weather was perfect in most of the state and the teams and individuals that went out to the Ohio State Parks did a fantastic job. Activity on 40 and 80 was great and even 10 and 15 had some takers as well. 40 meters was definitely the most active band. Band propagation varied widely across the state. Some stations had very good conditions, others had not so good conditions. It varied more than I expected.



The OSPOTA contest committee did all the cross checking of logs and tallying via email to avoid having to sit in a room for 4-6 hours together. I must say all went pretty good and we got everything sorted out and in the following pages, you will see all the results.



I was the one that initially received the logs and did some pre-checks and gathered info on the State Park, State or Country the log was from. Copied info on the Club affiliation, operators, loggers, helpers, and raw scores. The once the logs were in, I sent them to John, WG8X to run them through the log checking process (more on that in his article). Once they were done and sent back to me, I then updated my tally sheet, and wrote up the soapbox comments and photos we received. I estimated the total time for the committee work was well over 90 hours.

One thing I did notice this year that some participants that were in an Ohio State Park made contacts only to other Ohio State Parks. That's fine since Ohio State Parks are multipliers, but you missed out on a LOT of extra points by not making contacts to other stations as well. Think about that for next year. Your score would definitely increase by making more contacts. And, there seemed to be a number of Ohio State Parks activated, but no log was sent in. Next year, *please* send in those logs. We would all appreciate them, especially for cross checking the logs.



The OSPOTA committee sends out a big **THANK YOU** to all that participated in this year's OSPOTA and we look forward to hearing you on the air again next year to have even more FUN.

73 from the OSPOTA Contest Committee

KB8UUZ, WG8X, W8PT, W8KNO and KB8UHN

11-01-25



Ohio State Parks



On The Air



OSPOTA 2025 - Log Checking Information



John, WG8X
OSPOTA Log Master



OSPOTA 2025 Log Checking

Log checking for 2025 is officially complete! A huge **thank you** to everyone who participated this year, and as usual, kudos to all who submitted logs.

This year, there were 94 logs submitted. Most used a logging program of some sort. N3FJP OHQP & N1MM Logger + were the winners, accounting for about half of the logs submitted. Other logs used were Genlog, World Radio League, PHP contest logger, HRD, HAMRS, Winlog32, and VLS Logger.

As usual, once I receive the logs, I do a deep dive into the formatting. This ensures that the data is all in the proper columns (Yes, this matters). Once this is finished, all the log files are sent through the Cab Evaluator program which cross checks the logs against one another, creating a list of discrepancies. Once done, I then go through the cross-check sheets one by one to resolve the discrepancies. Finally, the final scores are calculated, and everything is returned to the contest chairman. All this takes about 40 hours of work to complete.

Some of you logged using paper, or on your general logging program, then used **adif2cabrillo**. Big thanks to **adif2cabrillo.kq4mhe.com version** for creating a preset on his site that made things so much easier.

This year, we had a record number of **Golden (perfect) Logs**. Good job!

Unfortunately, we also had a record number of Check Logs and score reductions. Sadly, most of this did not have to happen. The problems could be tracked to 4 different categories.

1. **Busted calls (17.7%)**: This happens when someone miscopies a call sign. For example, WG8X becomes W8GX, or K8B becomes K8D.
2. **Busted exchanges (31.3%)**: This error happens when someone miscopies part of the exchange. For example, PUN becomes PIN.
3. **Not in log (28.1%)**: This one is particularly concerning. It seems like some operators aren't logging stations that aren't in a park. This is a big mistake! If you're operating from a park, those out-of-park stations are crucial—they multiply your final score by the number of state parks you worked. By not logging (or submitting) these contacts, you're literally leaving a large chunk of your score on the table.
4. **Time Delta errors (13.5%)**: Sometimes, the contact is logged by both stations, but at different times. We allow a 10-minute window (+/- 5 minutes). So consider this a heads-up. Get those computer clocks synced up before logging your first contact. If you're paper logging, be sure to note the current UTC time for every contact.

Finally, I have log-checking reports available if you'd like to see how your score was affected. Feel free to reach out (wg8x.radio@gmail.com) if you have any questions, and I'll be happy to help.

Thanks, and 73!



Ohio State Parks



On The Air



Ohio State Parks On The Air



18TH Ohio State Parks On The Air 2025 *Final Results*

18th OSPOTA 2024 General Information (based on logs received):

Top score this year: **33,251**

56 Parks activated **69** Parks Contacted

94 Logs submitted

14 Out of state logs submitted

13 Golden Logs (no mistakes)

12 Check Logs

53 Clubs represented

over **255** Hams took part this year

Total QSOs: 7,100 SSB QSOs: 5,936 (83.61%) CW QSOs: 1,164 (16.39%)



Ohio State Parks



On The Air





Ohio State Parks On The Air



53 Clubs Represented By Participants

Alexandria Radio Club, VA
Alliance Amateur Radio Club, OH (2)
Amigos Radio Club Ashtabula, OH (2)
Athens County Amateur Radio Association, OH
Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club, OH
Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club, OH
Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, OH
Cambridge Area Maker Group, OH
Central Ohio Operators Klub Extra Novice, OH (2)
Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, OH (2)
Dallas City Troop Amateur Radio Club, TX
Defiance Amateur Radio Club, OH
DeForest Amateur Radio Club, OH
Delaware Amateur Radio Association, OH
Drake Amateur Radio Club - Contest Group, OH
Fayette Amateur Radio Association, OH
Florida Contest Group, FL
Fulton County Amateur Radio Club, OH
Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, OH
Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club, OH (2)
Koomer Ridge Contesters, OH
Lake County Amateur Radio Association, OH (2)
Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association, OH
Madison County Amateur Radio Club, OH
Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association, OH
Marietta Amateur Radio Club, OH
Massillon Amateur Radio Club, OH

Medina County Amateur Radio Club, OH
Mercer County Amateur Radio Club, PA
Miami County Amateur Radio Club, OH
Mishawaka Amateur Radio Club, IN
Morrow County ARES, OH
Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, OH
North Coast Contesters, OH (3)
Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club, OH
Paducah Amateur Radio Association, KY
Paulding County Ohio Amateur Radio Club, OH
Portage County Amateur Radio Service, OH (7)
Portsmouth Radio Club, OH
Potomac Valley Radio Club, VA
Preble Amateur Radio Association, OH (2)
Seneca Radio Club, OH
Silver Creek Amateur Radio Club, OH
Society of Midwest Contesters, IL
Southwest Columbus Ham Radio Club, OH
Steubenville-Weirton Amateur Radio Club, OH
Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation, OH
Tennessee Contest Group, TN
Union County Amateur Radio Club, OH (2)
Warren County Amateur Radio Association, OH (2)
Wayne Amateur Radio Club, OH
Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club, OH
Williams County Amateur Radio Association, OH



Ohio State Parks



On The Air





18th Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest - 2025 - Final Scores



Overall High Score

Team K8BSR in Mary Jane Thurston State Park 33,251

MML : Multi Op - Multi Radio - Low Power - In an Ohio State Park

#	Call	Park Name/Team	Final Score
1	K8BSR	Mary Jane Thurston: KE8UTX KE8UKX K8CAG N8ZGM AB8RC W8NI KF8CNK WB8RG KE8QJV KE8SZL	33,251
2	K8UU	Caesar Creek: WZ8K WE8N KA8IIM KA8STM KD8VWF	14,014
3	W8VTD	Mosquito Lake: K8CPG AB8MO W8CJA KE8ZDB KB8GAB KA8WMF N8HRZ	8,480
4	KE8RV	Madison Lake: N8CWU W8RAQ W8RAY KC8ZKS W8DPK WB8OSU KE8VSY KE8NHH WD8NVN KE8YVG N8HXW	6,981
5	N8CUB	Paint Creek: N8BAP, N8CUB, WD8LSN, KE8PAQ	4,321
6	K8B	Wingfoot Lake: WG8X, N8QE, W8NET, KD8OBA, WB9LBI, KD9ZDY, WD8DAU, K8IV	4,023
7	W8O	Cowan Lake: N8MIQ, N8VSI, W8LEW	3,864
8	K8GQB	Guilford Lake: KF8CYL, K8BXT, K8IKO, KC8JOO	3,240
9	W8HCG	Indian Lake: K2KAR, N4HAI, K8MP	3,021 **
10	W8VP	Blue Rock: N8IMW KE8NI WD8SDH KF8CGY W8FHF KE8ZKR KE8CIN	2,295
11	W8UCO	Delaware: KE8ANU, NX8Y, KD8RGW, KB8YVC, N8IG, N8SNA, KE8VIX, KE8PRP	1,554
12	K8BXQ	Harrison Lake: KD8KBU, KB8ELG, KE8OKA, KE8BHW, KD8ZKE, KC8HDG, AA8YY, W8AN	1,280
13	K8EEN	Mohican: KE8ICI, KC8EVS, KI8N, KE0RYO, W8PEN	1,036 **
14	WF8X	Caesar Creek: AD8FD, KE8YEI, KD8BNR, KF8EMX, KF8CEB, KF8BMC, AB8RG	957
15	KC8OH	Pymatuning: KE8PVL, KC8LAR, KE8GJL, AC8YJ, AD8OI, KC8RJO	594
16	K8GE	Adams Lake: KE8GAD, K8WEH, AB8GJ	575
17	N8QA	Shawnee: KB8SRN, N8WSS, WX8G, W8TBS, KD8WTG	520
18	NO8I	Sycamore: AB8YK, N8VAR, KE8DOC, KE8CVB	476
19	K8VON	Independence Dam: KD8JSP WD8JVV NU8G KB8UPA	90
20	KA8OFE	South Bass Island: W8SRD, W8BNO, WB3AK, KE8YUJ	66 **
21	W8NL	Mt. Gilead: KE8FHG, KF8CMD	CL

** = Golden Log CL = Check Log

MMH : Multi Op - Single Radio - High Power - In an Ohio State Park

#	Call	Park Name/Team	Final Score
		---- No Entries In This Category for 2025 ----	

MSL : Multi Op - Single Radio - Low Power - In an Ohio State Park

#	Call	Park Name/Team	Final Score
1	N8XCC	Hueston Woods: N8XCC, N8XC	10,935
2	KC3GFU	Malabar Farms: KC3GFU, WF8U	4,071
3	KY8C	Salt Fork: N8WJ KF8EFG K8AL KB3RDR N8RAF	3,304
4	KC8AAV	Burr Oak: KC8QDQ, KE8WJJ, WT8E, KC8QDP	2,900 **
5	W8CWO	Jefferson Lake: WD8SAB KE8VMG W8PIK WD8IJ N8KRO W8PAB K6RBV KE8ZJT	2,900
6	AD8FQ	West Branch: AD8FQ, AD8IR	2,384
7	W8UKE	Strouds Run: W8VQ, N8XWO, KD8FRQ, WD8RIF	1,350
8	W8AJT	Hueston Woods: KE8BWQ W8VUV WB8TCB W2TBQ KE1TLG AD8LO N8KYX N8SDR	1,260
9	W8HH	Muskingum: WD8JFT, KE8RBY	1,134
10	K8ZT	Nelson Kennedy Ledges: K8ZT, WA3JAT	1,088
11	KE8FJX	Independence Dam: N8OXO, N8LOV	612
12	N8BC	Headlands: WB8PHI, N8IJG, KB8BKE, N8WCL, KF8AIM	112
13	W8QLY	Lake Milton: KD8NZF, KF8BFD, K8MSH	CL

** = Golden Log CL = Check Log



Ohio State Parks



On The Air



MSH - Multi Op-Single Radio-High Power - In a Park		
Call	Park Name	Final Score
<i>No Entries in 2025 for this Category</i>		

SH - Single Op-High Power - In a Park		
Call	Park Name	Final Score
N8OCJ	Buck Creek	420 **

** = Golden Log

MPO - Multi Park Operator			
Call	Park Names/Scores		Final Score
K8RYU	Hocking Hills: 720 Tar Hollow: 8 - Check Log	Scioto Trail: 1702 Lake White: 172	2,642

SL : Single Op - Low Power - In a Park			
#	Call	Park Name	Final Score
1	KF8AHK	North Bass Island	10,290
2	K8MD	Forked Run	6,240
3	KB8UEY	Caesar Creek	5,440
4	KD8BBK	North Bass Island	4,646
5	N3GJ	Geneva	4,551
6	K8RGI	Oak Point	4,095
7	K8FAY	Deer Creek	3,432
8	KD8UPX	Caesar Creek	2,176
9	K8BTU	Alum Creek	1,596
10	K8RR	East Fork	1,113
11	KI8R	A.W.Marion	872
12	NU8Y	East Harbor	714
13	WB8UBR	Stonelick	672
14	WA8RR	South Bass Island	496
15	KC8JC	Salt Fork	480
16	AF1K	West Branch	396
17	W8CX	Indian Lake	345
18	KC8RJS	Quail Hollow	252
19	KF8DPO	Lake Loramie	192
20	W8WRC	Mosquito Lake	190
21	KD8UFE	Buckeye Lake	182
22	K8RYK	Pymatuning	180
23	W8LBR	Beaver Creek	138
24	AC8OW	Catawba Island	52
25	KB8ZR	Caesar Creek	48
26	N8NB	Mosquito Lake	30
27	KD8CGH	Tinkers Creek	CL
28	KD8YPY	Little Miami	CL
29	KD8ZZR	Findlay	CL
30	KE8HFM	Little Miami	CL
31	N8CJ	Buckeye Lake	CL
32	W8CBG	Buckeye Lake	CL
33	W8DWW	Kiser Lake	CL
34	W8EOG	Caesar Creek	CL
35	W8NP	Portage Lakes	CL

CL = Check Log



Ohio State Parks



On The Air



Ohio State Parks On The Air



In Ohio - Not In Park (NOT)	
Call	Final Score
KB8UHN	513
AA8DL	408
KE8FWZ	374 **
KB8UUZ	110 **
KA8SBI	25 **
KE8HTV	9

** = Golden Log



Outside Ohio (OUT)		
Call	State	Final Score
N3CU	PA	2640
WB9HFK	IL	918
W9RWG	IN	682
KA5VZG	TN	616
NU4N	KY	195
KM4IAJ	VA	90
WA4JA	TN	64 **
N9EDL	IN	49 **
AA5AH	TX	25 **
AB1XQ	VT	16 **
K2KT	VA	16
WA3INC	NY	11 **
KC5DCT	TX	4
WO4O	FL	1

** = Golden Log



OSPOTA 25 - QSO Breakdown		
Total QSOs:	7,100	
SSB QSOs:	5,936	83.61%
CW QSOs:	1,164	16.39%



Ohio State Parks



On The Air





Ohio State Parks On The Air



Park Listing showing Activated and Contacted in 2025

Ohio State Park	ID	Activated	Contacted
Adams Lake	ADA	x	x
Alum Creek	ALU	x	x
A. W. Marion	AWM	x	x
Barkcamp	BAR		
Beaver Creek	BEA	x	x
Blue Rock	BLU	x	x
Buck Creek	BCK	x	x
Buckeye Lake	BKL	x	x
Burr Oak	BUR	x	x
Caesar Creek	CAE	x	x
Catawba Island	CAT	x	x
Cowan Lake	COW	x	x
Deer Creek	DEE	x	x
Delaware	DEL		x
Dillon	DIL		
East Fork	EFK	x	x
East Harbor	EHB	x	x
Findley	FIN	x	x
Forked Run	FOR	x	x
Geneva	GEN	x	x
Grand Lake St. Marys	GLM		
Great Council	GRC		
Great Seal	GSL		
Guilford Lake	GLK	x	x
Harrison Lake	HLK	x	x
Headlands Beach	HEA	x	x
Hocking Hills	HOC	x	x
Hueston Woods	HUE	x	x
Independence Dam	IDM	x	x
Indian Lake	ILK	x	x
Jackson Lake	JAC		
Jefferson Lake	JEF	x	x
John Bryan	JOB		
Jesse Owens	JEO		x
Kelleys Island	KEL		x
Kiser Lake	KLK	x	x
Lake Alma	LAL		x
Lake Hope	LHO		x

Ohio State Park	ID	Activated	Contacted
Lake Logan	LOG		x
Lake Loramie	LOR	x	x
Lake Milton	LML	x	x
Lake White	LWT	x	x
Little Miami	LMI	x	x
Madison Lake	MLK	x	x
Malabar Farm	MAL	x	x
Marblehead Lighthouse	MHD		x
Mary Jane Thurston	MJT	x	x
Maumee Bay	MBY		x
Middle Bass Island	MBI		x
Mohican	MOH	x	x
Mosquito Lake	MST	x	x
Mt. Gilead	MTG	x	x
Muskingum River	MUS	x	x
Nelson Kennedy Ledges	NKL	x	x
North Bass Island	NBI	x	x
Oak Point	OPT	x	x
Paint Creek	PTC	x	x
Pike Lake	PLK		x
Portage Lakes	POR	x	x
Punderson	PUN		x
Pymatuning	PYM	x	x
Quail Hollow	QHL	x	x
Rocky Fork	RFK		x
Salt Fork	SFK	x	x
Scioto Trail	STR	x	x
Shawnee	SHA	x	x
South Bass Island	SBI	x	x
Stonelick	STO	x	x
Strouds Run	SRN	x	x
Sycamore	SYC	x	x
Tar Hollow	TAR	x	x
Tinkers Creek	TCK	x	x
Van Buren	VAN	x	x
West Branch	WBR	x	x
Wingfoot Lake	WLK	x	x
Wolf Run	WRN		x
		56	69

Parks Activated = 56 (Log sent in)
Parks Contacted = 69



Ohio State Parks



On The Air





Ohio State Parks On The Air



Ohio State Parks Activated and sent in a log during the OSPOTA Contests: 2008-2025

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Ohio State Park	ID	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Adams Lake	ADA					X	X	X		X	X		X		X		X	X	X
Alum Creek	ALU			X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
A. W. Marion	AWM	X	X	X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Barkcamp	BAR		X			X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	
Beaver Creek	BEA			X			X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X
Blue Rock	BLU	X		X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Buck Creek	BCK			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X
Buckeye Lake	BKL	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X		X	X			X
Burr Oak	BUR	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Caesar Creek	CAE	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Catawba Island	CAT					X	X	X	X		X	X	X						X
Cleveland Lakefront	CLE	X		X	X	X	N2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cowan Lake	COW	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X		X
Deer Creek	DEE		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Delaware	DEL	X		X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Dillon	DIL						X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X		
East Fork	EFK				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X
East Harbor	EHB			X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X		X	X
Findley	FIN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Forked Run	FOR		X	X	X			X				X		X	X				X
Geneva	GEN			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Grand Lake St. Marys	GLM	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X		
Great Council	GCL	N5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N5	
Great Seal	GSL		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X	
Guilford Lake	GLK	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X		X
Harrison Lake	HLK					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Headlands Beach	HEA			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hocking Hills	HOC	X		X	X	X						X	X			X	X	X	X
Hueston Woods	HUE		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Independence Dam	IDM				X	X	X		X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Indian Lake	ILK	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		X			X
Jackson Lake	JAC	X						X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
Jefferson Lake	JEF					X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Jessie Owens	JEO	N4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N4	X	X	X		X		
John Bryan	JOB	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X		
Kelleys Island	KEL	X				X	X		X				X						
Kiser Lake	KLK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lake Alma	LAL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X	
Lake Hope	LHO	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X			
Lake Logan	LOG			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	



Ohio State Parks Activated and sent in a log during the OSPOTA Contests: 2008-2025

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Ohio State Park	ID	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Lake Loramie	LOR			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			X
Lake Milton	LML	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lake White	LWT		X	X	X	X	X	N3	-	-	N3		X					X	X
Little Miami	LMI			X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Madison Lake	MLK	X		X		X		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Malabar Farm	MAL			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
Marblehead Lighthouse	MHD					X	X	X			X		X		X				
Mary Jane Thurston	MJT	X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X			X			X
Maumee Bay	MBY			X			X	X			X	X	X	X	X			X	
Middle Bass Island	MBI						X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X		
Mohican	MOH			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
Mosquito Lake	MST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mt. Gilead	MTG	X			X		X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X
Muskingum River	MUS			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Nelson-Kennedy Ledges	NKL			X	X		X	X			X		X	X		X	X		X
North Bass Island	NBI						X						X	X					X
Oak Point	OPT							X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Paint Creek	PTC			X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pike Lake	PLK			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Portage Lakes	POR	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
Punderson	PUN	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pymatuning	PYM	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X
Quail Hollow	QHL	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X			X	X	X	X
Rocky Fork	RFK			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Salt Fork	SFK	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Scioto Trail	STR		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			X	X		X
Shawnee	SHA				X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X
South Bass Island	SBI	X					X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stonelick	STO	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Strouds Run	SRN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sycamore	SYC	X		X	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X
Tar Hollow	TAR			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
Tinkers Creek	TCK	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Van Buren	VAN				X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X			X
West Branch	WBR	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
Wingfoot Lake	WLK	N1	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
Wolf Run	WRN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	
		36	20	57	50	60	63	64	55	50	58	35	64	47	58	60	51	45	56

N1-Wingfoot Lake became a State Park in 2009

N2-Cleveland Lakefront was dropped as a State Park in mid 2013

N3-Lake White State Park was closed by ODNR - leaking dam 2014 - reopened 2018

N4 - Jessie Owens State Park became a State Park in 2018 - Was available for OSPOTA in 2019

N5 - Great Council State Park became a State Park in 2024 - Was available for OSPOTA in 2025

Not all activated parks sent a log in for scoring

Ohio State Parks On The Air

Activated Parks 2008-2025

1 November 2025



Ohio State Parks On The Air



Thanks goes out to the 255 ham radio operators, club calls and loggers that submitted logs for the 18th annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest

AA5AH	K8ZT	KD8WTG	KE8ZZR	N8VSI	W8UKE
AA8DL	KA5VZG	KD8YPY	KF8AHK	N8WCL	W8VP
AA8YY	KA8IIM	KD8ZKE	KF8AIM	N8WJ	W8VQ
AB1XQ	KA8OFE	KD9ZDY	KF8BFD	N8WSS	W8VTD
AB8GJ	KA8SBI	KE0RYO	KF8BMC	N8XC	W8VUV
AB8MO	KA8STM	KE1TLG	KF8CEB	N8XCC	W8WRC
AB8RC	KA8WMF	KE8ANU	KF8CGY	N8XWO	W9RWG
AB8RG	KB3RDR	KE8BHW	KF8CMD	N8ZGM	WA3INC
AB8YK	KB8BKE	KE8BWQ	KF8CNK	N9EDL	WA3JAT
AC8OW	KB8ELG	KE8CIN	KF8CYL	NO8I	WA4JA
AC8YJ	KB8GAB	KE8CVB	KF8DPO	NU4N	WA8RR
AD8FD	KB8SRN	KE8DOC	KF8EFG	NU8G	WB3AK
AD8FQ	KB8UEY	KE8FHG	KF8EMX	NU8Y	WB8OSU
AD8IR	KB8UHN	KE8FJX	KI8N	NX8Y	WB8PHI
AD8LO	KB8UPA	KE8FWZ	KI8R	W2TBQ	WB8RG
AD8OI	KB8UUZ	KE8GAD	KM4IAJ	W8AJT	WB8TCB
AF1K	KB8YVC	KE8GJL	KY8C	W8AN	WB8UBR
K2KAR	KB8ZR	KE8HFM	N3CU	W8BNO	WB9HFK
K2KT	KC3GFU	KE8HTV	N3GJ	W8CBG	WB9LBI
K6RBV	KC5DCT	KE8ICI	N4HAI	W8CJA	WD8DAU
K8AL	KC8AAV	KE8NHH	N8BAP	W8CWO	WD8IJJ
K8B	KC8EVS	KE8NI	N8BC	W8CX	WD8JFT
K8BSR	KC8HDG	KE8OKA	N8CJ	W8DPK	WD8JVV
K8BTU	KC8JC	KE8PAQ	N8CUB	W8DWW	WD8LSN
K8BXQ	KC8JOO	KE8PRP	N8CWU	W8EOG	WD8NVN
K8BXT	KC8LAR	KE8PVL	N8HRZ	W8FHF	WD8RIF
K8CAG	KC8OH	KE8QJV	N8HXW	W8HCG	WD8SAB
K8CPG	KC8QDP	KE8RBY	N8IG	W8HH	WD8SDH
K8EEN	KC8QDQ	KE8RV	N8IJG	W8LBR	WE8N
K8FAY	KC8RJO	KE8SDQ	N8IMW	W8LEW	WF8U
K8GE	KC8RJS	KE8SZL	N8KRO	W8NET	WF8X
K8GQB	KC8ZKS	KE8UKX	N8KYX	W8NI	WG8X
K8IKO	KD8BBK	KE8UTX	N8LOV	W8NL	WO4O
K8IV	KD8BNR	KE8VIX	N8MIQ	W8NP	WT8E
K8MD	KD8CGH	KE8VMG	N8NB	W8O	WX8G
K8MP	KD8FRQ	KE8VOB	N8OCJ	W8PAB	WZ8K
K8MSH	KD8JSP	KE8VSY	N8ORJ	W8PEN	
K8RGI	KD8KBU	KE8WJJ	N8OXO	W8PIK	
K8RR	KD8NZF	KE8YEI	N8QA	W8QLY	
K8RYK	KD8OBA	KE8YUJ	N8QE	W8RAQ	
K8RYU	KD8RGW	KE8YVG	N8RAF	W8RAY	
K8UU	KD8UFE	KE8ZDB	N8SDR	W8SRD	
K8VON	KD8UPX	KE8ZJT	N8SNA	W8TBS	
K8WEH	KD8VWF	KE8ZKR	N8VAR	W8UCO	



Ohio State Parks



On The Air

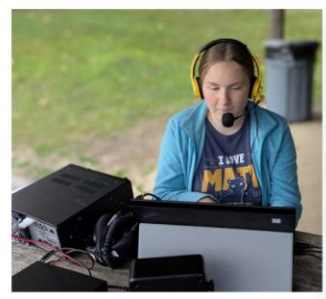


OSPOTA 2025 Photos and Soapbox Comments

AD8FQ - West Branch State Park



Team AD8FQ: AD8FQ, AD8IR



AF1K - West Branch State Park



Once more OSPOTA was blessed with a beautiful day to operate outdoors in a contest!

I'd like to give a great shout out THANK YOU to all the OSPOTA organizers and PCARS for the work they put in to make this such a great continuing success!

73 de Rich AF1K and Daisy, the guard dog.



W8UKE - Strouds Run State Park



Band conditions were rough this year, with only one QSO being made on 80m. We're looking forward to OSPOTA 2026!

73, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

K8B - Wingfoot Lake State Park



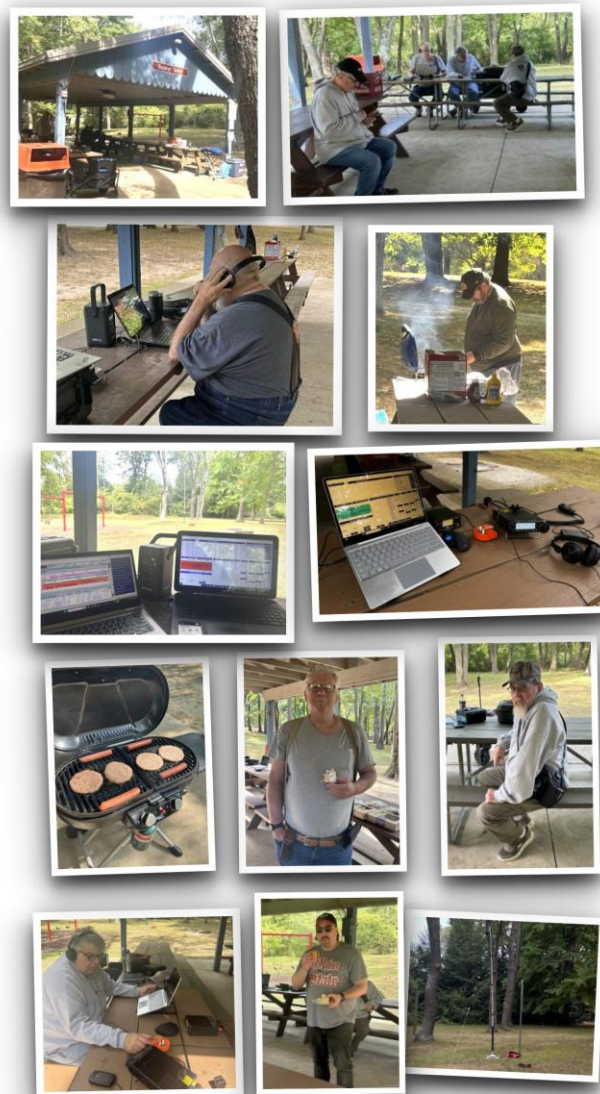
Several members of PCARS ventured out this year to Wingfoot Lake State Park (WLK) for OSPOTA '25. Using a special 1 By 1 callsign (K8B), we contacted 27 Ohio State Parks, and several states/countries. Conditions were OK early on, before going into the dumper late in the afternoon.

Gene, W8NET erected an 80/40 dipole using the DX Engineering design. In addition, we used an End Fed Half Wave (EFHW), and an 80-10M Linked Dipole.

Contact logging was done using the N3FJP Hacked software in non-networked mode. Rigs were a pair of Yaesu FT-891s running 100W

Our operation made good use of the return of CW to the contest. Of our 159 contacts, 60% of them were CW. I'm hoping for similar numbers from other stations when the results are posted.

Big thanks to all the ops this year (WG8X, N8QE, W8NET, KD8OBA, WB9LBI, KD9ZDY, WD8DAU, K8IV) who came out to operate with us at Wingfoot Lake State Park.



K8RR - East Fork State Park



Just want to add that conditions for OSPOTA on that Saturday afternoon were some of the worst on HF that I had ever experienced. No 80M contacts at all is unprecedented, and 40M was lousy, which made it very difficult to work Ohio State Parks. Better luck next time! I had to set up in the car due to rain in the morning. The skies cleared up, but the bands did not cooperate.

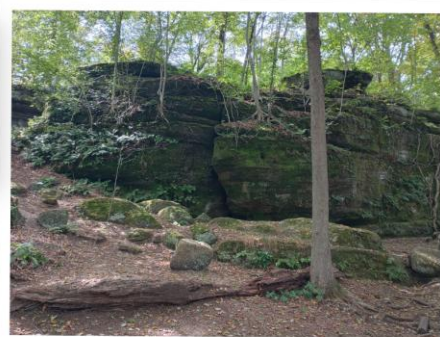
73, Rod, K8RR



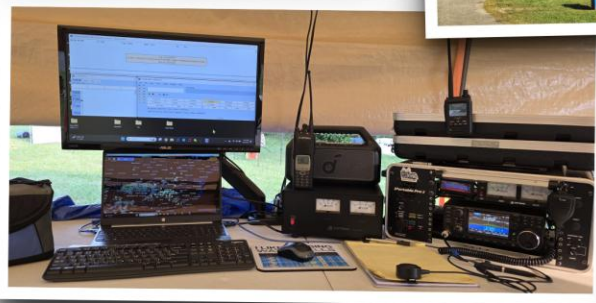
K8BXQ - Harrison Lake State Park



K8ZT - Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State Park

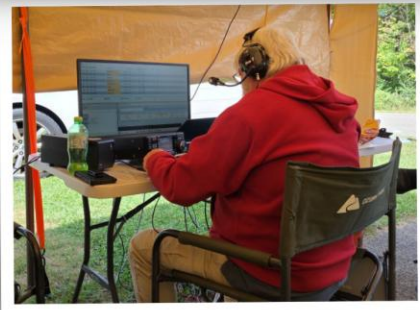


K8UU - Caesar Creek State Park



Our group is getting older and some just come out and visit during events. These are the only pictures I have. Glenn WE8N is in the red. I am in the camo Ken KD8VWF. We really enjoy getting together and doing our radio hobby but sure seems like things are winding down a little each year. Thank you guys again for all you do for us OSPOTA people.

73, Ken



W8O - Cowan Lake State Park



KC3GFU - Malabar Farm State Park



This year we operated from the Pugh Cabin at Malabar Farm State Park (MAL), a filming spot from the classic movie Shawshank Redemption. The weather was gorgeous, the bands were brutal, and our score wasn't what we dreamed of ... but we had an absolute blast! We look forward to this contest year after year and we are already excited for 2026. Thanks to everyone on the air for showing patience and resilience.



- Amanda, KC3GFU & Chris, WF8U

KC8RJS - Quail Hollow State Park



I don't have a lot to say, this was my first time at this park. I set up in the parking lot near the foot trails. I ran a 80M double bazooka at 55ft and a 40M a few feet below the 80M both as an inverted V. Got some great signal reports on the 80M



I used this app called Trees to get a rough estimate of how my support tree was, just need your distance from the base, take a couple readings and viola some basic trig yields fairly close results.



I was hoping for more parks on the air, only a few that I did hear I couldn't work.

73, George Meleski KC8RJS

Ohio State Parks On The Air



KD8CGH - Tinkers Creek State Park



I had planned to operate from the shelter but saw the day before that it had been reserved, so I set up out of the back of my car. I set up early and made a few POTA contacts first. Turns out no one ever showed up to use the shelter.



The radio pictured is a FX-4CF 20 watt HF transceiver. My main antenna was a PAR 40/20/10

EFHW strung up to a line in a tree. I had success making contacts everywhere but Ohio. Thinking I needed to go NVIS I set up my old

Super Antenna YP1 as a V close to the ground. Unfortunately it didn't do any better.



KE8RV - Madison Lake State Park



Everyone arrived between 7 and 8 am.

Proceeded to blow off the shelter floor with the leaf blower and began to setup operations. One of the early fellows had already begun setting up his stations out in the open using a couple verticals or their regular POTA setups. The club then hoisted two dipole antennas 80 and



40 in the trees which went very well. At ten we started on 80 and got a few contacts, then switched to 40 where most of the activity was. \$0 seemed to be the best band for the rest of the day. We used, for the first time, the World Radio League software to log which worked very well for the way our operation was setup. This system needs internet which was provided by a hot spot on loan

from the library. This is a cloud based system so networking all the stations together was very easy. Throughout the day people came and went but did not operate. No non-ham visitors or park officials stopped to inquire what was going on. It was very cold in the morning at the end of the day it finally warmed up. Everyone left around 4 PM so they could go watch the OSU - Grambling football game. Larry N8CWU



KF8AHK & KD8BBK - North Bass Island State Park

Once upon a time....

Our OSPOTA adventures took us to North Bass Island (aka Isle Saint George) where we operated from opposite ends of the island. Tony (KD8BBK)



operated from the chapel area not far from the landing strip and I (Dale KF8AHK) ventured to the south end for some separation, eliminating any interference. We were able to keep in touch with our HT radios. It was a beautiful day on the island with cool temps., sun and a light breeze. We flew in on a chartered Cherokee 6 passenger plane with just enough room for us and all the radio gear, etc. We both used wires mounted high up in the trees. The band conditions were pretty good in the morning but tapered off as the day went on. We had a great time!



The cost for the flight was \$100.00 per person round trip. You have to reserve ahead of time and they are OK with cancellations due to weather, etc. No charge for cancellations as far as I know. Just let them know as soon as possible. Payment is made when you arrive for your flight. We used Griffing Flying Services located at Port Clinton. The staff



is friendly and the pilot was very nice and accommodating with loading all the radio gear. <https://flygriffing.com/>



It's a very unique place with only about 6 residents. The Islanders are friendly and will answer any

questions you might have. There are no amenities on the island, however I think there was a porta-john at the docks. They are remodeling a building at the docks, so maybe in the future there will be some items available such as snacks and water. That's just a guess. Make sure you take plenty of drinking water if you go. Anyone should feel free to contact me with any questions about activating the island. My email is available on my QRZ page.



73, Dale KF8AHK



Ohio State Parks



On The Air



N8XCC - Hueston Woods State Park



This year was more difficult to make contacts than the last three years. 80 meters usually hands us a lot of parks right away but the band didn't show up at all except for a few local contacts. 40 was the go to all day but wasn't consistent with a few good runs but mostly calling CQ, sometimes 5 to 10 minutes, without a response. 20 was mostly long and wasn't active enough to come off of 40. Watched the band scope for CW and pounced on a few but, voice was still more active for us. Another big thanks for the Hamilton Group, W8AJT, for inviting us across the lake for a shrimp boil and great conversation after the contest. 73 and CU next year!

Jesse Walker, N8XCC



Ohio State Parks On The Air



Ohio State Parks



On The Air



W8HCG - Indian Lake State Park



Karen (K2KAR), Joe (K8MP), and I activated Indian Lake State Park in Logan County for Ohio State Parks on the Air. We used our new club callsign W8HCG - Hilliard Contest Group. The site worked out great—while RVs were across the road, we had no immediate neighbors, and plenty of trees at the north end of the park for antennas.

We put up the DXCommander and laid out the radials, only to discover a few broken radial wires. No problem—we stripped the ends and wrapped them around the wing nuts. Around an hour before sunset, Joe (K8MP) rolled in and quickly shot a line over a tree to hang his 40m bazooka. Afterward, we drove to a local Mexican restaurant for dinner before turning in. Karen and I slept in her Subaru that night. It felt just like Field Day!

Saturday morning started with coffee and setting up a 10'x10' canopy. Two tables became our “shack,” and by 10 AM we were on the air. Joe was back early to finish his antenna, and soon we were calling CQ. It was tough at times to track down other Ohio parks, but we made plenty of Midwest contacts, snagged a few West Coast stations, and even worked some DX.



Karen jumped right in and ran several pileups like a pro. Joe and I tag-teamed between CW and SSB, filling the log all afternoon. The K3 gave us a scare, but we traced it to a flaky MFJ tuner that had been problematic since Field Day. Once we pulled it out, everything ran smoothly. Later, I realized that hammering CQ in Morse Code into an End Fed Half Wave rated at 250 watts wasn't the best idea—the SWR crept up, and when I took it down, the balun was still warm!

Between us, we had three radios on site (K3, K4, and a TenTec Omni VI Plus), three antennas (80m EFHW, 40m bazooka, and a 80m DXCommander), three laptops, and our home 5G WiFi as an easy way to network the laptops, and to look for spots on line. Plenty of gear, plenty of learning, and lots of laughs. We wrapped up the weekend with dinner at Texas Roadhouse in Marysville. Our server was fantastic, and we even got to share a little about ham radio with her manager. It was the perfect ending to a weekend of radio, camping, and good company.

Lessons Learned

1. Don't worry about your score—just have fun.
2. Bring backups for everything that could fail.
3. Test your equipment before you head out.
4. Use a checklist! (We didn't forget anything this trip!)

73, Tom, N4HAI

WA8RR - South Bass Island State Park

K8RGI - Oak Point State Park

This year my brother Richard, WA8RR, and I (K8RGI) set up in a lot across from the airport on Put-in-Bay. Richard activated South Bass Island State Park, and I activated Oak Point State Park. We started at about 7:00pm on Friday night putting up our canopy and separate masts for our antennas. We had to use headlights from one of our cars to finish.



Saturday we were back at the site at about 7:00am and proceeded to put up our antennas. Richard used his GRV-5 and I used my inverted-V fan dipole. These antennas gave each of access to all the HF bands. We then installed our equipment in the tent and started the generator. We made several contacts to make sure everything was working.

We went on the air at 10:00am and started to make contacts. Richard started on 40 meters and I started on 20 meters. 40 meters was good for contacting the state parks and 20 meters was good for points. The bands started good but just like last year went dead as we moved into the afternoon.

The weather was very good this year. We didn't have the windy conditions from last year. 73, Robert, K8RGI



Ohio State Parks On The Air



Ohio State Parks

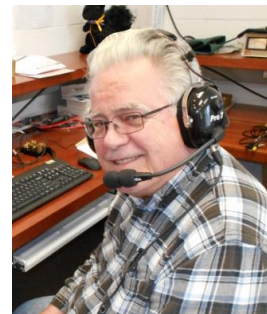


On The Air



19th OSPOTA - Sept. 12, 2026 - Make Plans Now

Tom, KB8UUZ
OSPOTA Chairman



Nineteenth Annual Ohio State Parks On The Air Amateur Radio Contest - 2026

Make sure to mark your calendar for the 2026 Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest – September 12, 2026. The contest is always held on the first Saturday following the Labor Day holiday. Each year this event has grown and we anticipate another year of growth with even more participating Amateur Radio Operators.

The OSPOTA contest was conceived with three main goals in mind:

- To promote public awareness of amateur radio and Ohio's beautiful state parks system;
- To contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology;
- To promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio's Amateur Radio Operators



Your participation has allowed these goals to be achieved. We agree it is a lot of fun to get out in a natural setting with your radio and see how well you can do at working operators in the beautiful Ohio State Parks.

This will be the 19th annual OSPOTA – Make plans now to be active in OSPOTA 2026.

Don't forget – Check out the OSPOTA website at www.OSPOTA.org and, we have an OSPOTA E-mail Group located at: <https://groups.io/g/OSPOTA> The [OSPOTA IO Group page](https://groups.io/g/OSPOTA) is used for messaging and sharing of information about OSPOTA for all the fans and participants in the OSPOTA contest.

OSPOTA has a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OSPOTA/>) and is used before, during and after the contest for updates and to share stories and photos.

As the 2026 contest draws near, we'll be posting on the OSPOTA IO Group page the anticipated 'Who's going to be at what Ohio State Park' or 'Planned Park' list as we have in past years. Send your planned park activation information to PlannedParks@ospota.org . Please, include the call sign that will be used and the Ohio State Park you plan to be at. If your plans change, just let us know and we'll update the list. Remember, more than one person or group can be at an Ohio State Park – there are no reserved State Parks.

Note: Some Ohio State Parks are being managed by local park systems, but they are still listed and considered to be Ohio State Parks according to ODNR (Quail Hollow & Tinkers Creek).

So – pick a park and make your plans now for OSPOTA 2024 !!!!!

**Take care & 73 from the entire OSPOTA contest Committee:
KB8UUZ, WG8X, W8PT, W8KNO, KB8UHN**

Questions? Email: INFO@ospota.org



Ohio State Parks



On The Air



Start Making Plans for the 19th annual

Ohio State Parks On The Air



September 12, 2026



We'll be listening for you !!!!!



He never lets me make a contact.....



Ohio State Parks



On The Air



PCARS is on YouTube

That's right - PCARS is on YouTube. So what does that mean? Hey, we have a place to put all kinds of videos that are about PCARS for the world to see.

<https://youtube.com/@portagecountyamateurradios1933?si=09-NxUpDOoqdqTzc>



PCARS IO Group

Members are reminded that PCARS has a IO Group site dedicated to PCARS. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list for important PCARS information.

Check out the PCARS IO Group at:
<https://groups.io/g/PCARS>



PCARS Patches & Stickers

PCARS logo patches (**iron on**) & stickers (stick on) are now available!

Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket and show off that PCARS logo! The patch is about 3". The embroidery on the white patch is Red, Black, and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting. There are 2 types of stickers available - a 4" x 6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Reach out to the club treasurer for details.



PCARS T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, Jackets, Hats, etc. can be obtained from:

PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC
PCARS

EST. 2005

Greg KA8TOA

Net Control Coordinator

Hello everyone, I would like to wish all club members and there Spouses a very Happy Thanksgiving. The nets have picked up and there will be a new Net Manager starting January 1st 2026. Bob N8SKN will be taking over the duties then. I hope all of you will continue serving as Net Control, I know I will. The schedule for rest of the year is posted on the web site. I will have the net results for the last quarter of the year for the January newsletter. Again, stay safe and enjoy family time. Remember, the November meeting is election time and PCARS donation for The Center of Hope - club's charity donation. I hope to see all of you there!



PCARS Custom Coffee Cups - LIMITED EDITION! - Get One Now!

PCARS has obtained a limited number of special, custom-made coffee cups that are available only to members.

Supply is limited. If you are a current (PAID) member of PCARS you get one coffee cup for **FREE!!** The only catch is that you have to claim it from the **Treasurer**. There is a list of current members and the treasurer will check off your name when you get your **FREE** PCARS coffee cup.



There are a **very limited number of extra coffee cups** for sale at \$5.00 each. **Contact the Treasurer for details:** treasurer@portcars.org

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE WANTED FOR SALE WANTED FOR SALE

For Sale: Yaesu FT-2000 160 - 6 Meter Transceiver with FH-2 Remote Control Keypad and CT-119 Programming Cable \$800.00 for everything. Original boxes are available. Geocron GEO-4K-COMP2 new in the box \$150. ARRL 10 - 40 Meter End Fed Antenna Kit new in the box \$50. MFJ-931 Artificial Ground \$75. MFJ-4906S Duplexer \$50. Will consider reasonable offers. Local sales only. Contact Bob Hajdak N8QE at (330) 807-5903 or rhajdak@aol.com. [01/26]

FOR SALE: BRAND NEW Custom-Built desktop PC Specs are as follows: Ryzen 5 5600G 3.9 GHz; 32 gb RAM; 1GB Ethernet LAN; 500gb m.2 SSD; DVI/HDMI video out; 500w power supply; Tempered glass case w/RGB RAM and fans; Linux Mint O/S. (Can be upgraded to Windows 11.); \$650.00; Contact Kyle (330) 562-8898 [01/26]

For Sale or Want Ad policy reminder: This is a PCARS **members only benefit**. Please don't ask to list items for a friend, relative or SK estate unless they are/ were a member of PCARS. Requests come in from all over the USA (and beyond) to list items for sale or wanted items and we just cannot dedicate that much space to non-members. Listings are good for 3 months unless canceled or changed earlier. The date listed after the contact information tells you when the ad expires - example: [01/26] indicates the ad will run until the end of January 2026.

DX & Contesting Special Interest Group

Chuck, W8PT

DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator



On Tuesday, Oct. 28, we held the last DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting for 2025. I want to thank the 11 members who attended either in person or by ZOOM. You all helped to make this a very productive meeting. The main item on the agenda was setting out the 2026 K8BF contest schedule. So without further ado, here it is:

Feb 7-8

Minnesota QSO Party
British Columbia QSO Party

Feb 21

Freeze Your Acorns Off

Mar 14-15

Idaho QSO Party
Wisconsin QSO Party

Apr 25-26

Florida QSO Party

May 2-3

7th Call Area QSO Party
Indiana QSO Party
New England QSO Party

Jun 6-7

ARRL Inter. Digital Contest

Jun 27-28

ARRL Field Day

Jul 18-19

North American QSO Party , RTTY

Aug 22-23

Ohio QSO Party & BBQ Open House

Sept 19-20

Washington State Salmon Run

Oct 3-4

California QSO Party

We also plan to have some presentation meetings where we hope to have a very good turnout by our membership. Ken, WA8LRW, will be doing a presentation on the use of the N1MM logging program for contesting. WE're thinking of changing to that program when contesting from the clubsite. Bob, N8QE, will be giving a presentation on the operational capabilities of the ICOM 7300, which we use at the clubsite, since many of us do not have that rig in our shacks. Bill, WB9LBI will be giving a presentation of the use of the Morse Runner program for learning CW or for increasing your speed. We really need more CW ops when we participate in various contests.

We also set out the challenge to come up with ideas on how to get those who contest but do not do so from the clubsite, to start joining us when we put K8BF on the air. We also want to learn how to get more members involved in contesting.

So, all in all, it was a very good meeting and hopefully, 2026 will be a banner year for K8BF and our PCARS Black Squirrel Contesting Group.

73 for now.

Chuck, W8PT

PCARS Contest Coordinator

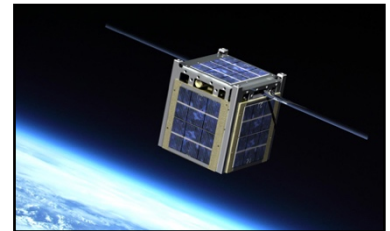
TinyGS – Citizen Science Satellite Ground Stations

Jim, AC8NT



What is a CubeSat?

A CubeSat is a very small satellite. The smallest standard size is a 10cm X 10cm X 10cm cube known as a 1U. You can make bigger satellites by stacking the cubes so a 2U would be 20cm X 10cm X 10cm. There have been 12U satellites launched. They are Low Earth Orbit satellites with a relatively short time in orbit. However, some have lasted multiple years. They are usually put into space by piggy backing with a commercial or military satellite. They can also be sent to the ISS as part of a resupply mission and launched from the ISS. Even a few were on interplanetary missions.



Who has built these satellites?

CubeSats have been built by a variety of groups including military, research, organizations (AMSAT-US, AMSAT-UK, AMSAT-DL and AMSAT-Italy), universities and even high schools (Oakwood High School California). As of April 2025, there were 2,730 in orbit as tracked by the Nanosats Database.

What do they do?

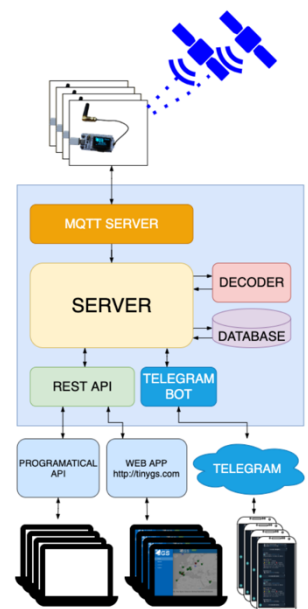
Some collect data including radiation and atmospheric data. A few have working cameras looking back at earth. Amateurs have repeaters in CubeSats. Active experiments are also part of the program including development of better antennas, solar cells, orientation control systems and propulsion.

How do they transmit data back to Earth?

Except for military and governmental satellites, most use amateur radio frequencies (2 m or 70 cm bands with various protocols) or frequencies in the instrument, control and medical bands (433 MHz, 863 MHz-960 MHz usually using the LORA protocol).

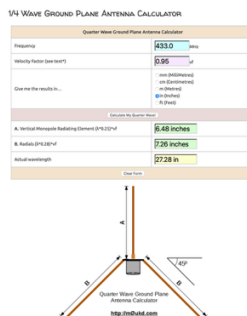
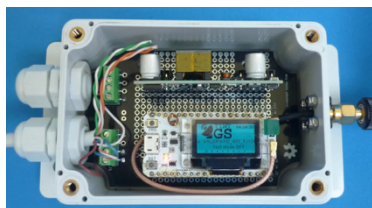
What is the TinyGS project?

The TinyGS project is an easy way to collect data from multiple CubeSats using LORA as they pass over a small inexpensive receiving station. The data is collected from an array of receivers all over the world and placed on on servers where satellite users can access their data. The signals from these sats are not strong, so an array of receivers is necessary to collect the constant data streams. The project has designed a receiver that can be built for about \$50 that is connected to the internet for data transmission to servers.



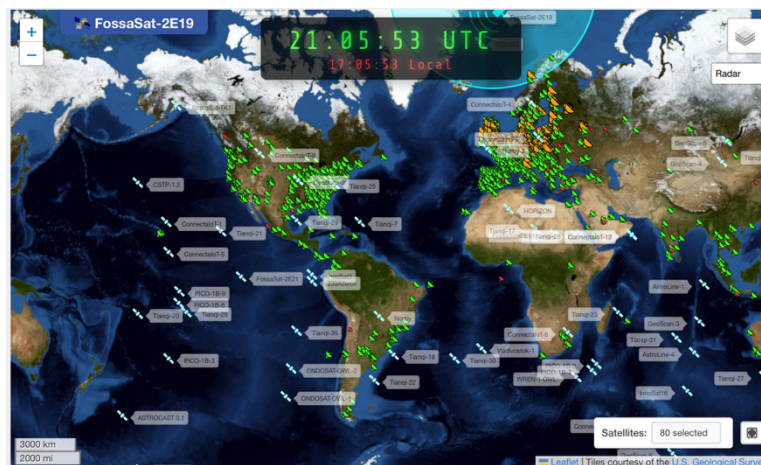
What does the receiver look like?

The receiver consists of one of many LORA modules that can be purchased from Amazon and other sources. The receiver module is then flashed with the TinyGS software which connects to a local WIFI network. A simple home-built ground plane antenna and a power brick supplying 5 volts are the only other items required.



How big is the receiver network?

As of October 25th, the network has 1,901 receiving stations around the world. A status map captured October 25th is shown below. 80 satellites are shown in their locations along with all the active ground stations.



My personal experience

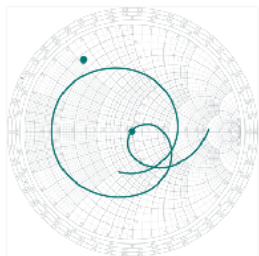
I hooked up a Lilygo LORA32 module to a battery powered 5 volt source. I constructed a simple antenna designed using a tool written by M0UKD (the ham with the Swiss accent). Although not pretty, it picked up 978 packets in a 1 hour period. Once I get it prettied up and weatherproof, I plan to keep it up and running for a while. I will put it at the club site for those interested. The time required to build was less than 2 hours.

Why do it?

It helps amateur satellite developers with their data collection. It is simple. No software development required. You get to build a simple antenna. AND, IT IS FUN!!

Jim, AC8NT

Antenna Special Interest Group



Jim, AC8NT
Antenna SIG Coordinator



Our next Antenna SIG will be held at PCARS World HQ on November 18th at 7PM. We will be continuing with our discussion of Antenna and Matching software. We will also be discussing all antenna questions you may have. You can get a jump on the discussion by downloading SimNEC and watching the videos online covering its application. If you have any questions about SimNEC installing, let me know with an email: AC8NT@j3solutions.com

If you can't attend in person, please try to attend via Zoom. Use the following link:

PCARS K8BF is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96686108444?pwd=hN5hDgTGWwdLBLXkLSeAfVOfSa4nGq.1>

Meeting ID: 966 8610 8444

Passcode: 915088

See you at the SIG!

Jim, AC8NT

POTA Special Interest Group

Hi POTA fans!

Gene, W8NET
POTA SIG Coordinator



Our next POTA SIG meeting will be on Tuesday November 4 @7:00pm at PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna.

We will discuss plans for a Winter POTA event. Bring your ideas and thoughts.

Please join us in Ravenna, or on Zoom.

73 de W8NET, Gene

Charlie the Tuner's DX High-Lites

Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"



Greetings to all DXers:

Hope you had a great October. So now November...November and December and another year is gone for good. We don't know what 2026 will bring but depending on your political standing, it may be a mixed bag of tricks.

Let's hope that some folks who are calling Amateur Radio "too woke" (yes, that has been stated) will wake up to the fact that Amateur Radio supplies a much-needed method of emergency communication when natural disasters hit. Yes, many of us look on this as a hobby. But there is a very serious side to this hobby, and it involves saving lives when tornados, hurricanes, floods and other WX events hit. And to top it off, we don't even take into account the fact that it might involve a part of the globe that we don't live in. So, let's hope that this silliness will correct itself and we can get on with the greatest hobby in the world. And not only that, but we can get more young people involved in Amateur Radio, before they start to believe the rhetoric.

Speaking of hobbies, how about the excitement of talking to someone across the pond or on the other side of this large spinning ball we call Earth. There are quite a few interesting DX events that are planned for November and December, some of which are already underway. Let's take a look....

As always, big Thank You to: DL5ON; The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, 425 DX News, DXNL

This report "could" contain "Pirate/SLIM" operations or more likely a "BUSTED CALLSIGN". As always, you never know, so... - **"Work First, Worry Later"**.

Here's ClubLog's Top 10 Most wanted DXCC entities:

1. P5 DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2. BS7H SCARBOROUGH REEF
3. CE0X SAN FELIX ISLANDS
4. BV9P PRATAS ISLAND
5. KH7K KURE ISLAND
6. KH3 JOHNSTON ISLAND
7. 3Y/P PETER 1 ISLAND
8. FT5/X KERGUELEN ISLAND
9. YV0 AVES ISLAND
10. 3Y/B BOUVET ISLAND

November...

3G5, SANTA MARIA IS. Felipe XQ7IR, plans to activate Santa María Island, SA-070 as 3G5SM between November 11-14, 2025. Operation will be from 160 to 6m in FT8, CW & SSB.

4U, ITU HQ. Reminder - Station 4U0ITU is QRV until the end of 2025 to commemorate the International Telecommunications Union's 160th anniversary. QSL direct.

5H, TANZANIA. Maurizio, IK2GZU, is QRV as 5H3MB from Ilembule until November 20 while volunteering at a school here. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL direct to home call.

5J0, SAN ANDRES IS. Currently waiting on their licenses, a team consisting of EA7BF, EA7FPG, EA7JW and EA7ATX plan to be active from San Andres Island during November 20-30, 2025. QRV on 160-10m, regular modes plus Digi. More info to follow later..

9U1, BURUNDI. 9U1RU Team will be active from Burundi until 20 November 2025. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, Digital Modes. QSL via ClubLog OQRS.

A5, BHUTAN, Last active in October 2023, Abie AB1F is returning to Bhutan and will again QRV as A52AA during November 24 to December 5, 2025. Planned activity on 40-10m, SSB. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, QRZ etc.

A9, BAHRAIN. Reminder - Members of the Bahrain Radio Club are active with special call sign A9100IARU the **first five days of each month** to celebrate the IARU's 100th anniversary. QSL via EC6DX.

ANTARCTICA. Reminder - Alex, DL2ALY is QRV as DP0GVN until December. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL via DL4BBH.

C2, NAURU. Phill, C21TS, is QRV until November 30. QSL via LoTW.

C5, THE GAMBIA. Lue, YT3PL, and Luc, F5RAV will be QRV from the Gambia, C5R, until November 7, planned modes CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, and satellite. QSL via YU5R.

CR2, SAO MIGUEL IS. CR2M Team will be active from Sao Miguel Island, IOTA EU - 002, Azores Islands in CQ WW DX CW Contest, 29 - 30 November 2025. Team - CU2CE, CU2DX, K0AV, W6NV. They will operate in Multi Two Category. QSL via LOTW.

D4, CAPE VERDE. Reminder - A group of operators are QRV with special event call sign D450ICV until December 31 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the independence of Cape Verde. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via LoTW.

FW5, WALLIS IS. FW5K Team will be active from Wallis and Futuna Islands, IOTA OC - 054, until 7 November 2025. Team - Alex K6VHF, Dave KA6BIM, Hannah W7HAN, OC NG7E, Scott N7JI, Marc NC7M, Hannah, W7HER. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, RTTY, including activity in CQ WW DX SSB Contest in Multi Two Category. QSL via ClubLog OQRS, LOTW.

H4, SOLOMON ISLANDS. Bernhard, DL2GAC, is QRV as H44MS from Malaita Island, IOTA OC-047, until November 25. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

OE, AUSTRIA. Special event call sign OE100OEVSF is QRV until December 31, 2025 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Austrian Amateur Radio Society. QSL via bureau.

OK, CZECH REPUBLIC. Members of the Czech Radio Club are QRV with special call sign OL100IARU until the end of the year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the IARU. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

PA, NETHERLANDS. Special event station PA40MARAC is QRV until December 31 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Dutch Marine Radio Amateur Club. QSL via PA3CNI. QSL via home call buro, direct, LOTW, eQSL.

T88, PALAU. Bob, W7YAQ and Al, K7AR will be active from Choll, Palau as **T88AR** during November 22 to December 1, 2025. Participation in the CQWW CW Contest. QRV on 160-6M. Activity on 6M will be informal, occasionally listening or CQing on 50.313 FT8. QSL via OQRS, LoTW, or direct to K7AR.

TL, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP. Starting from November 1st, look for Darek TJ1GD to be active from Bangui, Central African Republic as **TL8GD**. He says he will be QRV regularly on HF bands; CW, SSB & FT8. QSL via Club Log OQRS, LoTW or via SP3EOL.

TZ, MALI. Jeff, K1MMB will be QRV as TZ4AM through December. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. Look for the TZ4AM/B beacon on 50050.5 kHz. QSL via KX4R.

V7, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Randall, KX4QD is QRV as V73HW for the next two years. Activity is in his spare time on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

V84, BRUNEI, V84SRU is a Special Event Station (S.E.S) to commemorate IARU 100 year celebration, and will be on the air until 26 November 2025. QRV daily on HF bands; CW, SSB & FT8. QSL via QRZ.com address.

VR, HONG KONG. Members of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society are active with special call sign VR100IARU until December 2025 to celebrate the centenary of the IARU. QSL via bureau.

XU, CAMBODIA. Russian Robinson team and Miller DX Club members will be active from **Koh Ta Kiev Island, AS-133** as **XU7RRC** during November 25 to December 3, 2025. QRV on HF bands. QSL via RZ3EC, LoTW.

YI, IRAQ. Antonio, IZ5WPZ, is QRV as YI9WPZ until the end of November 2025. QSL to home call.

ZS, SOUTH AFRICA. Special event stations ZS100SARL, ZS6SRL, and ZS9HQ are QRV during all of 2025 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the South African Relay League. QSL via LoTW.

Looking Ahead & Other Reminders...

9V, SINGAPORE. Reminder - Eric, KH6WI, is QRV as 9V1EO for the next two years. Activity is on Satellite QO-100 using FT8 and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

H44MS, SOLOMON IS. Bernhard, DL2GAC will be active as H44MS from Manakwai village, Malaita Island, IOTA OC - 047, Solomon Islands, during December 2025 and January - April 2026. He will be operate on 40 - 6m SSB and FT8. QSL via home call.

J3, GRENADA. Rikk WE9G will again be back on his travel – this time to Grenada. Plans are to be QRV as **J3WG** during January 1-16, 2026; running SO2R on 16906m; mostly FT8 with some CW & SSB. Possible SOTA activity too.

JD1, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, JG8NQJ is QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 until December while working at the weather station here. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and some FT8. QSL direct to JA8CJY.

PJ7 – FS, SINT MAARTEN & St. MARTIN. Flavio IW2NEF plans activity from both PJ7 and FS during January 13-21, 2026. While operating from Saint Martin he will be mobile using a 20m vertical antenna. Also QRV on other HF bands from Sint Maarten; SSB, FT8, FT4. QSL via Club Log OQRS, buro, LoTW.

V7, MARSHALL ISLANDS. John, K5GDE, is QRV as V73WW from Kwajalein, IOTA OC-028, until January 2026. He is active on 40 to 10 meters using FT8. QSL to home call.

XX9, MACAO. DX Friends have announced a new DXpedition planned for March 19-31, 2026. QRV on HF bands + 6m. Team of 14 operators. Full details will follow on their official website found [here](#) (site currently under construction).

ZL, NEW ZEALAND. Members of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters are QRV with special call sign ZL100C until August 2026 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the club's founding. QSL via bureau.

Disclaimer: As you know by now, these DX events can change due to various reasons that sometimes are out of the control of those who are doing the planning. Be patient. I'm hoping that you use this info to hunt down your ATNO or simply to work some DX before your rigs become boat anchors or you become a boat anchor yourself!

Come on! There's still a lot going on for the next couple of months. Get on the air and work some DX!! As I always say, "Wobble the ethers." Blow the dust off of those rigs and get the solid-state stuff and even the tube stuff, on the air. 73 for now....Chuck W8PT aka Charlie the Tuner

Linux and Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group

Gene, W8NET

Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG Coordinator

Greetings all!

Our next Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG meeting will be on Tuesday December 2 @7:00pm at PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna.

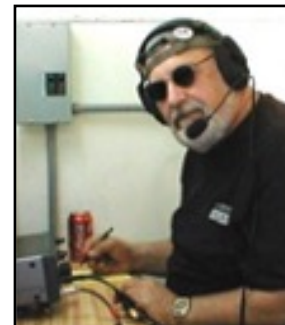
Details will be sent later in a QST.

ALSO, we will do another Linux & Raspberry Pi WORKSHOP on WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12th @7:00pm. Bring your projects and/or ideas!



Charlie the Tuner's November 2025 Contest Update

Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"



Greetings to My Fellow PCARS Contesters and anyone else interested in Contesting:
K8BF Scheduled Contests for 2025

Freeze Your Acorns Off	Feb 15	Completed
Idaho and Wisconsin QSOPs	Mar 8-9	Completed
Florida QSOP	Apr 26-27	Completed
7th Call Area QSOP	May 3-4	Completed
Indiana QSOP	May 3-4	Completed
Delaware QSOP	May 3-4	Completed
New England QSOP	May 3-4	Completed
ARRL International Digital Contest	June 7-8	Completed
Field Day	June 28-29	Completed
NA QSOP RTTY	July 19-20	Completed
Ohio QSOP & BBQ	Aug 23-24	Completed
OSPOTA	Sep 6	Completed
Washington Salmon Run	Sep 20-21	Completed
California QSOP	Oct 4-5	Completed

Please note that the K8BF contest schedule for 2025 has now been completed.

In November we have the following for those interested in participating on their own:

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	Nov. 1-3
10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital	Nov. 8-9
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	Nov. 15-17
CQ WW DX Contest, CW	Nov. 29-30

So that's it for this month. 73 for now, Charlie the Contest Tuner.

Other contests decided upon by the contest committee might be run from Members' QTHs using the club call with our License Trustee's prior permission. Of course, they will also have to adhere to their specific station license requirements.

*Contests that appear in **BOLD** are ones in which K8BF will participate.

PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC
PCARS

Est. 2005

Mark Your Calendar!

PCARS October 2025 Schedule of Events

November 3rd	PCARS Board Meeting
November 10th	PCARS Monthly Meeting
November 14th	PCARS Birthday!
November 27th	Thanksgiving Day

Special Interest Groups at the Club Site

1st Tuesday Odd Months	Digital Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV
1st Tuesday Even Months	Linux & Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
2nd Tuesday	Portable Ops Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
3rd Tuesday	Antenna Special Interest Group - Moderator: Jim, AC8NT
4th Tuesday	DX & Contest Special Interest Group - Moderator: Chuck, W8PT
5th Tuesday	Could Be Anything Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, KD8WCK

Hamfest Calendar

11/02 -2025 MARC Hamfest at MAPS
N. Canton, OH
<https://www.w8np.net>

11/08 - Grant Amateur Radio Club Hamfest - ABCAP
building in Georgetown, OH
<https://grantamateurradioclub.yolasite.com/>

12/6 - FCARC Winter Hamfest - Delta, OH
<https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>



PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



PCARS Ham Radio License Plates Wanted!

Dig out that amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it to be permanently affixed to the wall in the PCARS club station!

We have over 80 PCARS member's ham plates now, **but we can use more**. Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. Have a copy of your current FCC license when you apply. The official form to obtain your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the PCARS IO Group site. Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a **permanent part of PCARS history**.



From the Ohio BMV:

General Information: Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of Ohio and hold an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission may apply for these plates. The official call letters will be the license plate numbers.

Registrant Eligibility: Owner must submit a copy of the un-revoked and unexpired official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. (FCC).

Title Requirements: Ohio Certificate of Title issued in the same name as the FCC license, either singly or jointly, or the name on the FCC license is the same name on the lease agreement.

Vehicle Information: These plates may be issued to passenger vehicles, non-commercial trucks, recreational vehicles, house vehicles and non-commercial trailers.

Type of Plates: Plates will be manufactured with the FCC license.

Issuance Information: Amateur Radio plates cannot be issued with system assigned, reserved, or personalized plate formats.

Renewal of plates can be done at your local Deputy Registrar or by mail using their renewal notice. Amateur Radio License Holders must provide a copy of their current unexpired and unrevoked official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at the time of any type renewal transaction.

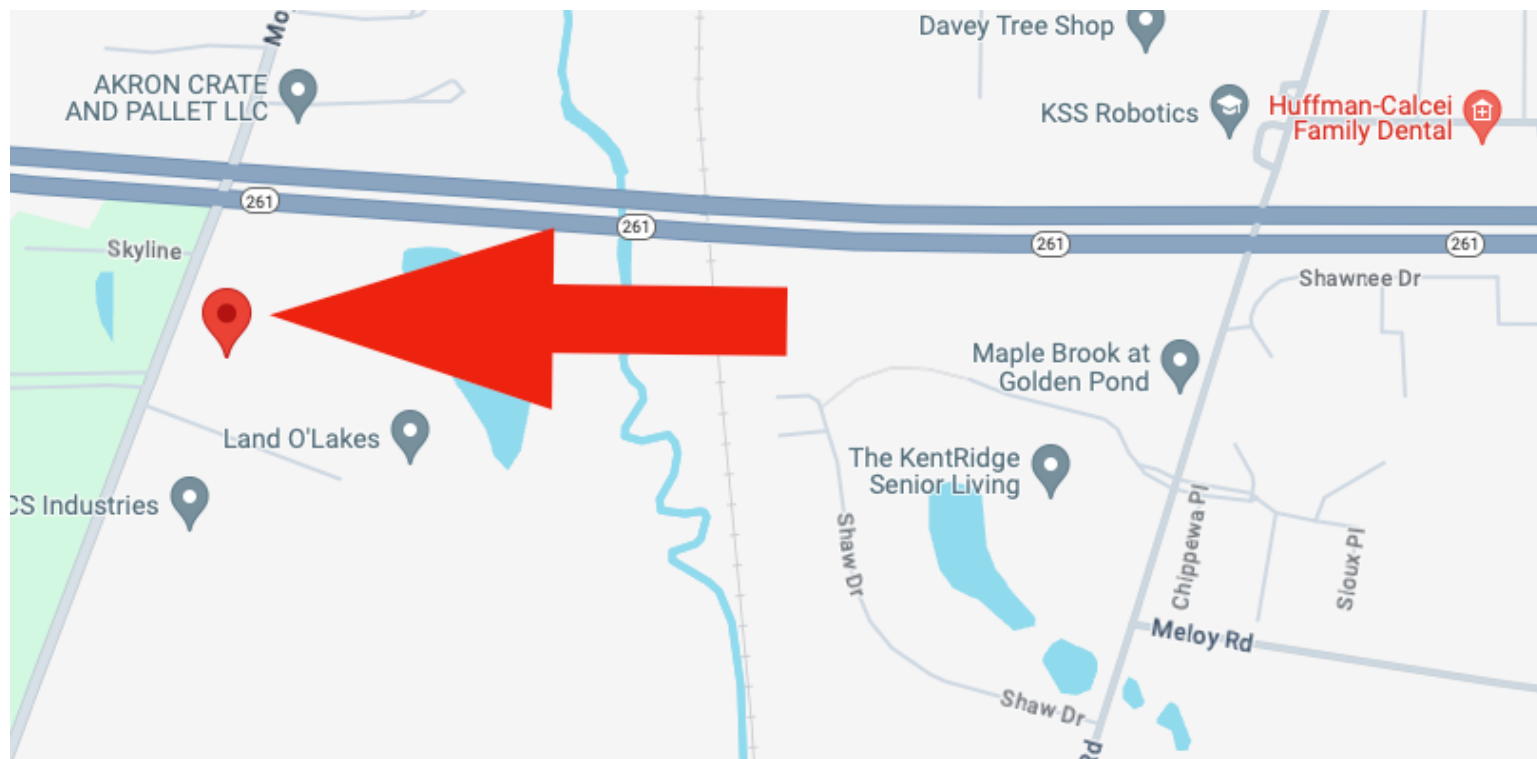
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at all Deputy Registrar license agency locations. These plates cost an additional \$10.00 annually plus the normal registration fees. The fee is determined by Ohio Revised Code section 4503.14.

PCARS Meetings



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) in-person meetings are held the **2nd Monday** of each month and start at **7:00 PM**.

**The meetings are held at The American Legion, Post 496
1945 Mogadore Road in Kent (Just South of Route 261)**



The American Legion Post 496 is located on the southeast corner of State Route 261 and Mogadore Rd. The driveway is on the south side of the building and as you enter you will pass through a parking lot on the south side of the building. Please do not park in this lot but instead continue on to the parking lot on the east side of the building which is the near the rear entrance into the Post 'Canteen'. As you enter the post from this entrance you'll see a bar to the left and a dining area to the right. The meeting area we'll be in is on the right, to the rear of the dining area.



The menu consists of your basic burger / dog / chicken sandwiches, wings, fries, onion rings, and salads. There is also an appetizer selection as well. Adult beverages are available and costs are in line with what you would expect at most bar-restaurant facilities.

If you are a member of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of The American Legion, bring your ID card as you get a substantial discount on adult beverage pricing.

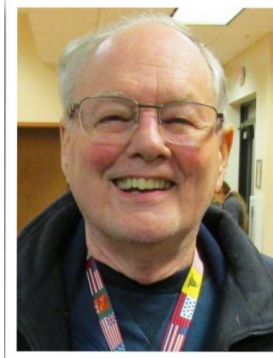


Future Dates:

- December 6th
- February 1st
- April 5th
- June 7th
- August 2nd

Check the website for the latest information

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS VE Team Liaison



On behalf of the VE team at PCARS, we all look forward to seeing you at the PCARS club site in Ravenna so you can take your license test or an upgrade to your existing license. Face masks are not State/County mandated at this time, but you are always welcome to wear one.

PCARS VE sessions are scheduled for **9:45 am** Registration, **10:00 am** Testing starts, on the first Saturday of every even numbered month at the PCARS club site in Ravenna.

Any questions? Contact KB8UUZ@gmail.com

Quick Facts

- **Yes**, PCARS VE test Sessions are held at the club site in Ravenna starting at 10 am - see schedule.
- **Walk-Ins are accepted.** Would appreciate an email to KB8UUZ@GMAIL.COM if you plan on attending.
- You **MUST** have an **FRN Number** (SSNs no longer accepted) **Taking Technician Test?** - You **MUST** apply for your **FRN** and get it prior to testing
- You **MUST** have a **valid e-mail address** for the FCC to be able to contact you.
- Picture ID required
- Original and Copy of your valid FCC license and originals of any applicable CSCE
- **VE fee is \$15** - Cash or Check payable to "ARRL-VEC"
- FCC License Fee \$35 - payable after FCC sends you a link. DOES NOT APPLY to upgrades
- **17 years old or younger? VE Fee is \$5** per the ARRL reduced CE fee Youth Program
- 17 years old or younger? ARRL will reimburse you the \$35 FCC Fee

Okay - Now **All** the Details:

- If you are sick, have a cough, a high temperature or have been exposed to COVID-19 or other communicable germs, or someone that has been infected - please, *do not* come to the club site. *Use of masks is optional.*
- No food or snacks allowed.
- Ensure you have the following:
 - A picture ID such as a valid Driver's License, State ID, School ID, or US Passport.
- If you are under 16 years of age, a parent or guardian must be able to vouch for you and you need a copy of your birth certificate (you do not have to give us a copy, we just have to see and verify).
- If you are upgrading to General or Extra - You **MUST** bring your original valid amateur radio license **and a copy** of your valid amateur radio license to turn in with your Form 605.
- Calculators are okay to use (if you need one) as long as the memories are cleared.
- NO cell Phones allowed.

First-Time Exam Applicants MUST Obtain FCC Registration Number BEFORE Taking Exam - All amateur examination applicants are required to provide an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) **BEFORE** taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system. Applicants will create an FCC username and account, respond to the verification email from FCC, and then register for the FRN. Register on the FCC's Commission Registration System (CORES): <https://apps.fcc.gov/core/>

Email Addresses REQUIRED - All applications are required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence. Applicants will receive an email direct from the FCC with a link to the official electronic copy of their license whenever a license is issued or changed. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend. Licensees will be able to log in to the ULS using their FRN and password to download the latest version of their license at any time. The FCC no longer provides paper license documents via regular mail.

FCC - \$35 Amateur Application Fee - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will **not apply to upgrade to an amateur radio licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees**. The new fees will apply only to applications for a **new** license, **renewal**, rule waiver, or a **new vanity call sign**.

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the \$35 fee at exam sessions. New applicants will pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual.

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate. The candidate will have **10 calendar days**, from the date of the application file number being issued, to pay. After the fee is paid, and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license. The link will be good for 30 days.

Youth Licensing Grant Program - The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time \$35 application fee for **new** amateur radio license candidates **17 years old or younger** for tests administered under the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program. The \$35 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates 17 years old or younger would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VE team at the time of the exam. The \$5 fee is for all candidates 17 years old or younger, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of under 18 status is required.

Visit the ARRL website for the program instructions and reimbursement form at www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program.

Printing Your FCC License

Information provided by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager.

I've created a set of instructions on how you can request an “**official**” **printed copy of your license***
[Click here to download the instructions](#)

J.C., KC8JC
PCARS Newsletter Editor



The cold wind is here and the leaves are dropping. We did what will probably be our last outing in the camper for 2025 and I went over my home antenna setup a couple of times in the hopes that I won't be out there scrambling around in the snow because something came loose or went sideways on me. And with a vertical, sideways is not advised. This also means that I will be digging out the heavy coat and getting the Jeep ready for my POTA activations. I still go out in the cold, but I dress for it. Remember: There's no bad weather; only insufficient gear.

Thank you to all of those who sent inputs for this month's issue:

**AC8NT, KA8TOA, KB8UUZ, KE8EGF
W8NET, W8PT, WG8X, and the World Wide Web.**

Send all of your inputs to me at KC8JC@portcars.org in the form of plain text and full-size photos. Share your latest tips, tricks, and insights into this hobby of hobbies with your fellow club members.

Remember: With **YOUR** continued help, **WE** can keep making this a **GREAT** newsletter!



Getting in a last bit of POTA in the camper for 2025.

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) - Ohio

~ The Hamvention® 2018 Club of the Year ~

PCARS meets the second Monday of each month at the Kent American Legion Post 496.
1945 Mogadore Rd. - just South of Rt. 261 - Enter the rear of the building for the meeting room.

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend - Stop in and say hello!

PCARS uses the K8IV repeater: 146.895 PL 118.8 in Sugar Bush Knolls. - EchoLink Node: K8BF-L

Check PCARS out on the web: www.PORTCARS.org

2025 PCARS Officers

President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT
Vice President - Russ Williams - NR8W
Treasurer - Paul Hyland - KE8EGF
1 Year Trustee - Mike Ryan - KB8TUY
2 Year Trustee - Gene Marsh - W8NET
3 Year Trustee - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ
Past President - Mike Gonzalez - KP4VZ

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliation
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club
March 22, 2010

2025 PCARS Appointments & Committees

ARRL Awards DXCC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Site Management	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Field Day Chairman	WA8AR	Tony Romito
FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
K8BF Callsign Trustee	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
K8BF QSL Manager	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
Membership Chairman	-	-
Net Control Coordinator	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
Newsletter Editor	KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PCARS Photographer	-	-
Public Information Officer	-	-
Secretary	AD8IR	Agnes Wagner
Social Media	N8WCP	Mike Szabo
Tech, Gen, & Extra Class Mgr.	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Volunteer Examiner Liaison	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Webmaster	WG8X	John Myers
POTA Coordinator	KE8ARB	Brandon Mercer



Active
PCARS
Volunteer
Examiner
Team
Members

KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
AC8NT	Jim Wilson
AC8QG	Nick Wagner
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
KA8TOA	Greg Ash
WA8CCU	Al Nagy
N8FUM	Dan Torchia
KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
W8EC	Mark Haas
K8IG	Fred Freer
W8HFZ	Tim McLeod
K8PJW	Phil Weiss
N8XTH	Deron Boring
K8IV	Ed Polack
N8AMY	Amy Leggiero
W8PT	Chuck Patellis
KP4VZ	Mike Gonzalez

THE RADIOGRAM

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Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of PCARS. Or, better yet, let me express it this way: "These are my opinions and only my opinions, unless you share them as well, which would make them our opinions, but I am not of the opinion that I can express your opinion as my opinion without your prior expression of said opinion, and then my re-utterance of that opinion would, in my opinion, be foolish unless I were expressing agreement to your opinion, and then it wouldn't be my opinion but your opinion to which I only agree." **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify what you use. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is that you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article. Caution - some of the articles in this newsletter maybe covered by copyright - please do not copy and use the ones that have by-line information unless you obtain permission from the original author. If you're not sure, drop an e-mail to KC8JC@portcars.org. The RADIOGRAM always obtains written permission for reproducing copyright material. The RADIOGRAM comes out the first day of each month (usually). ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio™. Why the Black Squirrel in our logo? For those of you not familiar with it: The Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Legend has it that some of these little guys and gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961 and they migrated and thrived throughout our county. Look into the black squirrel legends and see what you find! When you spot a black squirrel - think PCARS!

The RADIOGRAM is published every month and only sent to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that, we can take you off the e-mail list. Send your newsletter inputs (in .TXT format) along with in-focus pictures (not small 50 kb photos) to the newsletter editor: KC8JC@portcars.org

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